

Prosopis velutina — Gutierrezia sarothrae Shrubland

COMMON NAME	Velvet mesquite—Snakeweed Shrubland
SYNONYM	Possibly 1153.2401 in Reichenbacher, 1983.
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Extremely xeromorphic deciduous shrubland
FORMATION	Extremely xeromorphic deciduous shrubland without succulents
ALLIANCE	<i>Prosopis velutina</i> Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE

Undescribed type and distribution unknown.

Tuzigoot National Monument

This community is best represented on the west side of the study area in the bottomlands between the visitor center and the mine tailings.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

On the survey area, this community is common along the toe slopes of hills on sandy, clay loam soil. The soil surface is bare, crusted, and reddish-gray.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Not applicable.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

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Strata

Shrub

Species

Prosopis velutina, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Acacia greggii*, *Eriogonum deflexum*

Herbaceous

Bromus rubens, *Marrubium vulgare*, *Cassia bauhinioides*, *Capsella* spp.

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

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Prosopis velutina, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

Tuzigoot National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Information is not available.

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The *Prosopis velutina*/*Gutierrezia sarothrae* association is common in disturbed areas that apparently have received heavy grazing in the past. *Juniperus erythrocarpa* plants outside of the plot were young and appear to be invading this community. *Eriogonum deflexum* is abundant south of the personnel housing area. Where *Eriogonum deflexum* is common, *Hilaria mutica* (an indicator of heavy clay soils) grows along the banks of the arroyos. This area has a darker signature on the infra-red aerial photographs. The *Prosopis velutina*/*Gutierrezia sarothrae* association intergrades with the *Prosopis velutina* bottomland communities and may reappear in large clearings within them. This association is a common occurrence to the south of the ruins.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES None

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION Not applicable

COMMENTS

This is a disturbance vegetation type with affinities to many community types.

On the east side of the monument, this association merges with *Prosopis velutina*/*Distichlis stricta* association. Around the ruins themselves, it intergrades with the *Atriplex canescens*/*Muhlenbergia porteri* association.

REFERENCES

Reichenbacher, F.W. 1983. Plant Communities of Arizona. Report to Arizona Natural Heritage Program. Tucson, AZ.